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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/635,956	08/10/2000	Timothy C. Loose	47079-00058	6262

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EXAMINER

COBURN, CORBETT B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/635,956

Applicant(s)

LOOSE, TIMOTHY C.

Examiner

Corbett B. Coburn

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claim 1-5 & 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McGlone et al. (US Patent Number 6,394,900)

Claims 1, 9: McGlone teaches a slot machine with a central processing unit (422) for operating the slot machine in response to a wager. There is a reel mechanism including a motor (38) a symbol bearing reel (32) and a reel driver (402). The motor has a rotatable shaft upon which the reel is mounted. (Fig 1c) The reel driver includes a local microcontroller (612) distinct from and serially coupled to the CPU. (Fig 6) The reel driver is coupled to the motor to cause the motor to rotate the reel. (Abstract) The reel driver performs low-level reel driver operations independent from the CPU. (Fig 8) The CPU issues high-level commands to the to the reel driver related to the rotation of the reel. (Abstract)

Claim 2: Slot machines inherently stop the symbols in visual association with one or more paylines.

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Claim 3: The low-level reel driver operations include monitoring the reel and at least partially controlling its position. (Abstract)

Claims 4, 11: The local microcontroller monitors the reel by sampling its state multiple times per second in real time and responds with control commands for controlling the position of the reel. (Col 8, 45-57)

Claim 5: The local microcontroller is serially connected to the CPU via a Universal Serial Bus. (Col 2, 44-48)

Claims 7, 10: The CPU issues high-level commands to the local microcontroller. The high-level commands include a start reel command for starting the reel and a stop reel command for stopping the reel. (Col 7, 25-33, Col 8, 28-32)

Claim 8, 13: The reel includes an encoder (barcode) for indicating the position of the reel. The reel driver includes a barcode reader (408) that is coupled to the microcontroller so that the microcontroller may monitor the position of the reel. (Col 8, 45-57)

Claim 12: Claim 12 is merely a restatement of claims 1, 4, and 7, which see.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGlone as applied to claim 1 above.

Claim 6: McGlone teaches the invention substantially as claimed. McGlone teaches the reel controller is located proximate to the reels. (Col 6, 5-18) McGlone does not, however, specifically teach that the reel driver includes a printed circuit board to which the microcontroller is mounted. The use of printed circuit boards is so well known as to be notorious. McGlone specifically teaches that electrical components are usually mounted on printed circuit boards. (Col 2, 10-14) Printed circuit boards provide a stable physical substrate upon which circuit components may be mounted. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have mounted the microcontroller on a printed circuit board in order to provide a stable physical substrate for the electrical components.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Reference Name	US Patent Number	Applicability
Antoja	5,938,196	Separate reel controllers
Walker et al.	6,244,957	Shows separate reel controllers
Heidel et al.	5,102,136	Separate reel controller on circuit boards

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (703) 305-3319. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Primary Examiner, Jessica Harrison can be reached on (703) 308-2217. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.



cbc

August 8, 2002



S. THOMAS HUGHES
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